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General Assembly
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Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

General and complete disarmament

Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements

Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 5 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the elimination in Ukraine of the last intercontinental missile silo under the START Treaty.

I would appreciate it if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 65, 74, 83 and 84, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchinsky**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 5 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

On 30 October 2001, Ukraine destroyed its last SS-24 intercontinental missile silo located on its territory.

Taking into account that all the SS-19 intercontinental missile silos and strategic air force groupings had been previously eliminated, this event marked the fulfilment by Ukraine of its commitments under the START Treaty to eliminate in the course of seven years all nuclear arsenals and strategic offensive weapons.

All nuclear warheads that have been transferred from the territory of our country were also destroyed under the control of Ukrainian observers. In that way Ukraine has demonstrated its steadfast commitment to the strengthening of international peace and stability and made a solid contribution towards the strengthening of the international regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Having chosen a nuclear-free future, the Ukrainian people have taken an unprecedented step in the history of mankind in ensuring the total elimination of its inherited nuclear arsenal. In this context we highly appreciate the security guarantees provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and France to Ukraine in connection with its accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear State.

Comparing the political situation in the early 1990s with present-day realities, when Ukraine was taking a decision regarding its future nuclear-free status, we are fully aware of the changes which have occurred in the world. The tragic consequences of the recent terrorist attacks in the United States manifestly demonstrate that new threats and challenges to the international community and stability have become a reality, which require their timely evaluation and prevention. The further strengthening of strategic stability in the world remains, as before, an important task. Ukraine is ready to facilitate the elaboration of new approaches in this respect within the United Nations, other international forums and on a bilateral basis.